# The Macedonian Call

A Baptist Newsletter Dedicated to Our Missionaries

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John B. Porter, Editor

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### **Guatemala Report** September 30, 2015

Thank you for all your support of the true gospel and the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ in Cabon, Guatemala. The greatest news of this last year has been the salvation and public confession of Sister Waynne Barrios for whom many prayers have ascended to heaven the last few years. Enclosed is her salvation experience written in her own words which we found to be very heart-moving and rejoice to share with all of you. Sister Waynne is about fifteen years of age. She is the grand-daughter of Brother Edgar Barrios, our native preacher in Gautemala, who also sends you an enclosed letter of thanks at this time.

In our last report we shared with you the pleasant experience of having Brother Wesley Barrios with us here in Kentucky for about three months. Brother Wesley is eighteen years old and a recent high school graduate. He is the young man that was saved the day Nueva Vida was organized in 2009. While he was here we asked him to relate at length his salvation experience, which we recorded on video. We also recorded on video him singing in Spanish and in English while playing guitar, and with other young people at Unity MBC. Wesley is the son of Sister Jennifer Barrios and the grandson of Brother Edgar. Now we have two bilingual members in Guatemala in addition to Sister Jennifer. Their ability in English is not nearly so advanced as Jennifer's, but it is increasing to our delight. This language barrier has presented great difficulty at times.

As a reminder, Sister Jennifer was saved many years ago in Kentucky while she stayed in the home of one of our preachers, Brother Junior Bray, and was taken to church by that family. She also became an Old Time Missionary Baptist Church member during that time. After returning to Guatemala she never stopped praying to God for her family and sending requests for someone to come and preach the gospel to them. After these many years, God has answered her prayers and requests abundantly.

Sister Waynne's parents, Romeo and Wendy, were among those who professed salvation during the early years of the mission and also became charter members of Neuva Vida. Unfortunately, they have since fallen by the wayside, and we join their daughter and the rest of the family in asking you all to join us in praying for their repentance and restoration.

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia and prayed him, saying come over into Macedonia, and help us." (Acts 16:9)

....and Jesus came and spake unto them, saying "all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: And lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Matthew 28: 18-20

# "The Great Commission

Brother Wesley went back to Guatemala with a new zeal and determination to serve the Lord. He is translating Brother Vanderpool's adult Sunday School lessons for the teen and adult class in Cabon and teaching them each Sunday, after I scan them and send them to him by email. We also equipped him with a voice recorder and microphone to record Brother Edgar's sermons. He has faithfully done so and sent 16 messages in Spanish to date. We are still working on finding translators to help us translate these messages for us to hear or read. Brother Wesley has been richly rewarded since his return home with the report of his cousin Waynne's salvation, and the frequent attendance of his special friend, Elsy. We are also thankful for the salvation of Marisol and her father, Roberto, in 2013 when it was thought that Marisol had terminal cancer. It appears that her illness was also healed in addition to her soul. Marisol and Roberto were baptized in 2014 by authority of Nueva Vida Missionary Baptist Church, and have since been faithful members.

Remember this valiant little flock in your frequent fervent prayers. We thank you for all your help in the past. May god bless you for it with His incomparable rewards.

J. A. Reynolds

(Continued on page 2)

#### Mage 2

## Sister Waynne's Salvation Experience in her own words saved earlier this year in Cabon, Guatemala:

Before I knowing God I had family problems especially with my parents; they until now are separate of God. I was always in the church with the rest of the family. They every day taught me how to pray and ask God for everything I want with faith.

I lived big fights with my parents which was because my family was separate. I let time go, because I was not sure how to put it in God's hands. Until one night I cried out to God for peace, I give h Him my heart and my soul and then I felt his love. My heart was free, automatically my tears were dry and I felt a big happiness. It was amazing. A Friday, I told my brothers my experience of salvation, they were happy and they prayed for me this night.

Now I'm free, God is helping my family, God is with me all the time and of course I am working more for God. I put my future and my family's future in His hands, and now I will have a blessing life.

#### **Waynne Barrios**

#### A letter from Brother Edgar Barrios:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9)

It's a blessing and pleasure to write to you, while asking our heavenly Father to provide you with peace, happiness, and especially a healthy body to enjoy His presence in all moments.

Through this letter, I want to thank God for all the brother's and sister's lives, the ones supporting us in prayers and financially. Thanks to your efforts and our work here, and especially having God by our side, we are standing and spreading God's word like he called us to do. I want to share with you that we are having Bible studies on Friday nights, where members and visitors come to hear the word, and on Sunday our schools from 9-10 a.m. The children under 12 years old are taught by Sister Jennifer Barrios and Sister Carmen. At the same time the teen and adult school is taught by brother Wesley Romeo Barrios. Then, the children enjoy their snacks prepared and served by Sister Carmen from 10:00 to 10:30, where they also bless their food. From 10:30 to 12:00, more or less, we enjoy God's word and His message.

Also I want to share with you that starting this year we have the attendance of a young lady from the United States,. Her name is Loren, and she is with us every Sunday and loves to help us with kids. We have been having the attendance of two teens named Silva and Elsy, and a young man named Didier. They come frequently to church. Please, I send their names because I want you to be praying for them.

On behalf of New Life Missionary Baptist Church (Iglesia Misionera Bautista Nueva Vida), I want to thank each one of you so much, **Brothers and Sisters**, for your Love, Prayers, and your thoughts toward us, and your financial help. Without God's love and guidance, and you all, we couldn't be able to attend our children, help them, and cover

the church needs. Our prayers are always for God to bless each one of you and yours abundantly.

In Jesus' Love, let's continue praying for each other and standing strong for the Gospel, and especially to do God's will.

#### **Edgar Barrios**



#### MISSION REPORT: Siloam Missionary Baptist

The majority of individuals associate "missions" with one of two ideas. To some, missions are soup lines and shelters where the under privileged and outcasts of society are given services in exchange for listening to the gospel. Although these are good humanitarian activities and those laboring to provide these services should be commended, extreme caution must be exercised least the glorious gospel of eternal life through Jesus Christ be reduced to a simple exchange of food for mental agreement. To others, missions are those faraway places with exotic sounding names. They have no idea what goes on there or how it is all accomplished, but surely it must be God's work because they keep sending money and the "mission boards" keep saying they need more money! Surely the truth lies somewhere between these extremes.

It would be impossible, within the scope of this short report, to justly represent the many diverse areas of mission work in which we are to engage. Let us be careful to recognize that ALL efforts of evangelization that are led of the Holy Spirit are indeed mission works, whether they be foreign, domestic, jail ministries, nursing homes, or home Bible study groups that reach your family and friends with the "good news" of Jesus Christ. So indeed we are ALL missionaries in one form or another as soon as we walk outside the doors of our church buildings. Some works require special financing and perhaps relocation, while others simply require willingness on our parts to do what God has laid on our hearts. Yes, God does call men to special works and they are sent and supported by their home churches. This is as it should be. Many times the result is planting of new assembly points, which we label as missions, for preaching and teaching with the hope of eventual establishment of "Churches". Other works like jail ministries, nursing homes, Christian Schools, etc. are not intended to establish "churches", but are nonetheless mission works and do bring truth to those who need to hear.

So with this broad definition of "Missions" and understanding that our commission is to "Go", to whom then do we go and what can we expect to find when we get there? Tracing the journeys of the Apostle Paul, we find him preaching to three different classes of people, and truly within those three classes we will find all of those to whom we are sent. First, we will find those who have the right religion, but lack a born again experience with God through Jesus Christ (Acts 13: 14-32; 14:1; 16:11-15; 17:1-4; 17:10-

12; 17:16-21; etc.). Secondly we will find those who have another religion entirely. This class obviously needs to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ so they can be saved; since their religion is promoting some other way to obtain a favorable after-life (Acts 17:22-34). Thirdly, we find those who have genuine salvation, but need further instruction (Acts 19:1-7). In the area and environment in which we live, the vast majority of our efforts will fall under the First and Third classes of people listed. Those who have the right religion (Christianity), but lack a personal experience with God are unquestionably the largest group. Yet, very often we find those who have truly been saved, but are caught in the midst of false churches and devastating error. These third classes of people to whom we are sent are truly "sheep" that belong to the Lord, but they need to be rescued from the error they have embraced. This too is "mission work". Many times it is the beginning of a great harvest of lost souls as those who are rescued from error then try to rescue others that are caught in the same web of deceit.

Martin Luther once said "The greatest mission field lies within the established church". That was true when he said it in the 1500s and it is still true today. Although at Luther's time the Protestant Reformation was just beginning and "denominationalism" had not reached the vast extent which we see today, nonetheless Christianity as a religion had spread throughout the then know civilized world. The situation then, as now, was much the same as Judaism was during Christ's and Paul's ministries. There was no lack of religion that acknowledged God and taught from His word, but there was a lack of soul saving truth within that religion. We find Jesus saying of himself that his mission was "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel". Yet we know that His intent was, and is, to save all who will come to him, both Jew and Gentile. We also find the Apostle Paul whenever he came into a city always went "first" to the Jewish Synagogues that he might reach those who had the right religion, but lacked a personal experience of salvation. Many of them believed and became the foundation of the churches that were established. Then after gathering out those who received the truth from among the established religion of Judaism, he turned to those of other religions.

It should be no surprise to us that every mission work that has resulted in the establishment of a sound local church in our lifetime was not started with materials from "another religion". Instead, it has been by preaching to those who already consider themselves "Christians". In most cases these works were not begun with "new converts" that were freshly saved, but have been accomplished by preaching and teaching truth which resulted in folks who were already saved leaving the error in which they were entangled. Then, through their efforts lost family and friends were brought to the hearing of the gospel "and the Lord added to them such as should be saved". This has certainly been the case in most, if not all, the "foreign" mission works that have resulted in establishment of sound churches. Our beloved African brothers who continue to labor among their own people in Ghana, Kenya and Liberia were already saved when they embraced the truth they heard from Brother Bryson and others via radio. Then through their

preaching many were saved and many others who were already saved left their error and joined with them.

There is assuredly a need to reach other religions. but let us not underestimate the need that exists within "Christianity". Sometimes we forget that it is not the preacher" or even "the church" that God uses to bring "conviction" and resultant "repentance and faith" to a lost soul. It is the TRUTH He uses, regardless of the source. That is why Paul said, "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel. What then? Notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, vea, and will rejoice. "(Phil 1:15-18). Many seeds have been planted by those other than Missionary Baptist. Some still lie dormant, but some have sprung to eternal life and both are perishing for lack of water. Those that are yet dormant perish to eternal destruction and those who have sprung to life are unable to bring forth fruit in the dry ground in which they are rooted. There is much need for watering.

We should NOT draw back from every opportunity that we have to go in amongst those of other denominations and unsound churches. We should look for and seize upon any opening to exalt Jesus and tell our own personal experience. Jesus said we should speak that which we know and testify to that which we have seen. We should not be combative or condescending in our approach, but speak the truth from a heart of love and demonstration of the Spirit that dwells within us. Then let GOD use that truth to convict the hearts of those who truly have a heart to know the truth. Sometimes that truth will be to the salvation of a deceived, but lost soul. Other times that truth may be to the enlightenment and eventual liberation of a true Christian from the pathway of error .

Let us therefore be engaged missionaries, and whether we plant or whether we water, let us trust God to give the increase. If we would be true to the example set by Jesus and Paul, going to "the lost sheep of the house of Christianity" will be our first and greatest opportunity for missions. But be advised, our greatest opposition will not come from other religions, our greatest opposition will come from those within Christianity. That, of course, is no different than what Jesus, Paul, and our Baptist ancestors experienced. Their greatest opposition also came from within the established religion.

Respectfully Submitted by: Travis Garner Tony Day Danny Chandler - Chairman

The foregoing report on Missions was given at the Association meeting that convened October 3rd & 4th with Mt. Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church



#### UPPER SPOTSYLVANIA 2015 CHURCH HISTORY TOUR

By John Porter

Upper Spotsylvania Missionary Baptist Church sponsored and conducted their annual Virginia Church History Tour on October 22nd & 23rd, 2015. As usual they did a tremendous job, and it was a joy and a blessing to once again be on the tour and worship/fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Brother Brad Foster, the primary tour guide and director, did a tremendous job. It was evident that he had spent many hours in researching and digging out additional church history that was so pertinent and vital to our Old Fashion Baptist Church History.

There were approximately 48 visitors on the tour from 6 states, and from eleven Missionary Baptist Churches. One of the highlights of the tour was Friday night's worship service held at the old Massapponax Baptist Church building in Fredericksburg. There was good singing, good preaching, spiritual praying and salvation testimonies. It was a joy to be a part of that service. Elder Jerry Miller, pastor of Fairview Memorial MBC, preached a very spiritual message. The man that had opened the church building for us, and is also a member, was visibly moved by the service. He mentioned that the service reminded him of servicesheld there many years ago when he was a child.

Again, we thank the Upper Spotsy members for their hard work and warm hospitality. I highly recommend this tour to any of our Baptist brethren that have not been on the tour before, as well as those that have since new additional material is added every year. I have been on the tour four times and I learn more history on each tour.

Please pray for our Upper Spotsy Brothers and Sisters. They are not large in number, but they are zealous about spreading the gospel in that area, as well as to other regions.



# DRAMA IN THE BAHAMAS & JAMAICAN UPDATE

By Elder Rick Jones

Greetings from the West Indies,

I am so excited delighted to report of the success I had on our second trip to Nassau, which resulted in confirming my burden for mission work "the Lord favored our undertakings," not forsaking his servant whom he called to preach his word though he never saw a university. Like Jamaica, I landed just my KJV and me.

Oh, the day of small things the Holy Spirit leads us to do. As I begin my third Caribbean mission work in the Bahamas, I preached in Nassau in the Fox Hill Community on Schism in Evangelism, a heart-felt Know-so salvation experience of peace for a troubled lost soul." Oh, for me how the Spirit did flow as I had good liberty to preach in a strange place. It was well-received as one young man, a high school student, came to stand in the altar. I asked, "Son, you lost." He replied silently, yes sir. He bowed and I bowed with him. However, he seemed sincere, no real conviction or Godly sorrow that we look for or a broken heart and contrite spirit, fruits meet for repentance.

So-called Zion did not travail. Either they were preoccupied with inordinate rejoicing or did not know how God brings forth children. I think I know what Jesus meant, "I send you as sheep in the midst of wolves." The message was received well by a very friendly group of Bahamians. They invited me back to their Jubilee day when they celebrate 50 years as a church in the Bahamas. Please remember the lad as he appeared sad during the part of the preaching on Hell and the wrath of God abideth on he or she who rejects the draw to come and call on the Lord. I met a young twenty something grocery sacker in the supermarket outside the store as a downpour ensued and kept us from reaching the car for about ten minutes. I took advantage of the time and inquired of his church faithfulness, he replied, "I work on Sunday and I kind of backslid." I told the nice kid I was coming there to start a church and he gave me is phone number to get in touch with him on my return. I left praying for God to send me a Bahamian, like Dwen, a Jamaican the Lord sent because of church members' prayers.

In my youth, the truth is I was fascinated about pirates and buccaneers. I stopped to explore the caves where some 500 years ago the pirates hid from the British in these limestone caverns. I met and will not forget Shawn, a Bahamian guide who appeared out of nowhere to give us a history on the mystery of these holes in the rock. He talked of pirates and slaves the British rule. As he finished I talked a little about the Lord and he invited me to come back and preach in the caves. I thought for a moment, the first time I came I went to the local garbage dump to preach, why not return and preach in the caves. I am serious folks, one lost soul to preach too is as precious as one-hundred lost to warn to flee the wrath which has been foretold would come. I said Shawn, I hope you know the Lord and do not let anything happen to him until I return. I saw the white in his eyes extend and sensed a fearful stare as we bid goodbye to each other. Remember Julian, whom I baptized in Jamaica, now living on the island. It was he that made the plea for me to come to Nassau a few years back.

In Jamaica, revival results were nil, but that did not take away from the days the lost children I saw seemed to feel their hearts condemned. One highlight of the meeting was that for 18 years I have wanted critically to preach to Bro Dwen's cousin Georgie, but to no avail was I able to get him to attend worship. One morning in my apartment I was burdened to preach. I went upstairs to the church, converted to the DocMike's patient waiting room. To my surprise tears welled up in my eyes and there I saw sitting on the pew in front of me with his mother sat Georgie, Dwen's cousin waiting to see the Doctor. The Lord blessed me to preach on John 3, and the thought "born of water and of the Spirit." Before the new birth

can take place, I told Georgie whom in his lifetime his mind embraced the Rastafarian group who deny Christ as the Messiah, as well the doctrine of baptismal regeneration of the Seventh -day Adventist. I think Bro Dwen said Georgie was baptized multiple times falling back in sin. I was able to show in the scriptures before you go to be baptized you have to be cleansed in the blood of the Lamb. Nicodemus should have known this as a ruler of the Jews. Blood as always been the atonement for sins. I rejoiced in the Lord that morning such a burden lifted preaching to Georgie in the patient waiting room. What an awesome God I serve. Now I hope by May to raise enough one-time donations to move and purchase a car for transportation and a home for lodging as Brother Dwen and I rely on the Lord to prosper our mission journey in the Bahamas. Pray for March in Jamaica and May and summer of 2016 in the Bahamas.

All the best and God bless

#### **Elder Rick Jones**



#### Jamaíca Tríp Report November, 2016

Three from the US, Dr Mike Collins, Amanda Sturgil (a medical student) and I, traveled to Jamaica in November to conduct free medical clinics and take part in church services at Craighead MBC located in the Christiana area. We all arrived Monday afternoon (11/9) at the airport in Montego where brother Dwen Gritton was waiting for us. We headed up in the mountains in the trusty Isuzu, stopping for groceries and some fast food on the way. We arrived at our destinations around 9:00 pm where Amanda and I stayed at the Bryce House in Christiana, and Dr Collins stayed in the church basement with Brother Rick.

Most of Tuesday was spent unloading the medicines and organizing them in the make-shift pharmacy. Fortunately we were able to take more medicine into Jamaica this time than on the last two trips. Clinics were held for almost three full days (Wednesday through Friday) before we ran out of medicine. Each day before the clinic opened a devotional service was held upstairs in the church auditorium where the patients waited before coming down to the clinic in the basement. Church services were held each night with Brother Rick preaching each night. We had some good services, however no one came to the altar for prayer. Each night several from the Warsop church also attended the church services.

Since we were out of medicine we did not hold a clinic on Saturday, having a free day where Brother Dwen, his family, Dr Collins, Amanda and I had a day of R&R in Ocho Rios. This is a beautiful area located on the coast with sparkling emerald waters. Oche, as it is called by the locals, is on the north side of the island about forty or fifty miles east of Montego Bay.

After attending church services on Sunday (11/18) we said our goodbyes and headed for Montego Bay where we caught our flights back to the states on Monday afternoon. It was a joy once again to fellowship with our Jamaican Brothers and Sisters. As usual it was good to work with Salonie, Sofia, Anecia, Shekira and Aleta in the clinics. We were most thankful for the good safe trip and were blessed to be able to participate in the clinics and church services. We look forward to going back to Jamaica again in the near future.

#### John Porter



Ghana Missionary Efforts

December, 2015

Currently there are three funds that are financially supporting the missions and churches in Ghana. The Africa Fund was set and established by Brother Paul Bryson about fifteen years ago with the help of Brother and Sister Robert Lucas. This fund is under the authority of Union Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Homer GA.. Initially this fund was almost entirely dedicated to the effort in Ghana. However during the last several years this fund has primarily supported the radio and church work in Liberia, the work in Nigeria and to a lesser degree the Ghana effort. Early on the Africa Fund gave some support to the Church/Mission effort in Kenya, but now the Kenya Fund is totally separate and is administered by Brother James Jones and Elder Tom Olonde.

There are now two other funds that are supporting the Ghana effort, one that has been set up by Brother Phil Creecy and one by Brother Bradley Hicks.

The fund set up by Brother Hicks is called the Gold Coast Mission Fund and focuses its resources towards teaching and the discipleship of church members in Ghana. These efforts are geared towards educating the ministers in Ghana with the hope of better preparing the young preachers and churches, so when the ages and health of Brothers Samuel, Paul and Frank will no longer permit them to carry on that vital work, the younger ones will be prepared to assume that work. This fund is not intended to support building projects, car repairs and other day to day needs. The Gold Coast Mission Fund will also be listed on page 6 of "The Macedonian Call," starting with this issue.

I believe the fund set up by Brother Creecy is primarily supporting the efforts in the northern part

(Continued on page 6)

#### Dage 6

of Ghana. Also, I believe Brother Creecy's Fund is helping the pastors and other needs the preachers have that have come out of the Southern Baptist Convention and no longer have any connection with them.

For those that want to donate to the above mentioned funds and have any questions about their use, please contact the below listed brethren:

Elder Paul Bryson, 706-677-3432; paulwbryson@gmail.com

Elder Phil Creecy, 304-275-3290; otmbc.com

Elder Bradley Hicks, 317-750-8780; bshicks@umail.iu.edu



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Mission Trips: <a href="www.docmikejamaica.homestead.com">www.docmikejamaica.homestead.com</a> **Elder Junior Moore:**6422 Cemetery Rd, Bowling Green, KY 42103 270-791-8371

My Salvation Experience : www.mysalvationexperience.com

**Old Fashion Gospel Hour**: Farris Crook, Bookkeeper,821 Hwy 52,E,Portland,TN 37148: website-http://www.ofgh.org/(615)822-3208

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**Words Of Hope Ministry**: International Radio Broadcast, Elder Eugene Brown, Dir., P. O. Box 22, Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615) 824-5285 (website address-<a href="http://www.wordsofhope.org">http://www.wordsofhope.org</a>.)

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## The Macedonian Call

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